

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00258 241145Z

21

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /119 W  
----- 105659

R 241100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6065

INFO USUN 0474

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US, IC

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOI APPROACH

REF: STATE 037591

1. DCM DOYLE V. MARTIN DESIGNATED MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.

2. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PARA 7 REFTEL FOLLOW:

(A) ICELAND'S INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS, WHETHER PURSUED  
BILATERALLY OR MULTILATERALLY DURING 1976, WILL FOCUS ALMOST  
EXCLUSIVELY ON FISHERIES MATTERS. AS USUAL, CONSIDERABLE TIME  
AND ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO LOS CONFERENCE AND, SHOULD  
FISHERIES DIFFICULTIES WITH UK WORSEN, FURTHER RECOURSE TO  
SC MAY BE EXPECTED. IN LARGER ISSUES AFFECTING MATTERS DIS-  
TANT FROM IMMEDIATE ICELANDIC INTERESTS, GOI POSTURE WILL  
PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF BALANCING BETWEEN DOMESTIC  
(OFTEN LEFTIST) POLITICAL PRESSURES, NORDIC "SOLIDARITY,"

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00258 241145Z

AND GENERAL WESTERN POSITIONS IN ORDER THAT GOI NOT APPEAR  
TOO FAR EXTENDED.

(B) NORDIC COUNCIL AND NORDIC CONSULTATIONS AFFECT BUT DO NOT DETERMINE GOI POSITIONS. OBVIOUSLY, GOI WOULD PREFER TO BE IN STEP WITH OTHER NORDICS WHERE THEY HAVE A COMMON POSITION. FREQUENT LACK OF SUCH POSITION GIVES LEEWAY FOR CHOICE OF OPTIONS AND NEED TO CONSULT WITH OTHER NORDICS IS OFTEN EXCUSE FOR DELAY TO TEST THE WIND. CERTAINLY, GOI DOES NOT SUBORDINATE ITS OWN PERCEIVED INTERESTS TO THOSE OF OTHER NORDICS.

(C) IT OFTEN APPEARS THAT DELEGATIONS ARE NOT FULLY INSTRUCTED IN ADVANCE BUT THAT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DELEGATIONS ARE GIVEN WEIGHT IN PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS. DELEGATES SEEM TO HAVE SOME LEEWAY IN VOTING PROVIDED NO SERIOUS GOI INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED AND GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES ARE FOLLOWED. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PROBLEM OF CONTROL OVER DELEGATIONS OR IN RECEIPT OF REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS.

(C) GOI DELEGATION HEADS DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER BUT THEY ARE OFTEN ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES WHO DO. THUS THEY ARE SOMETIMES IMMEDIATELY SUBJECT TO POLITICAL PRESSURES WHICH HAVE TO BE RESOLVED AT HOME. THE PRESENT GOI UN PERMREP IS A SPECIAL CASE SINCE AS COUSIN OF FOREIGN MIN, HE HAS DIRECT CHANNEL ABOVE MFA BUREAUCRACY.

(E) WHILE GOI IS ALWAYS WILLING TO LISTEN TO USG REPRESENTATIONS, AND IS SUFFICIENTLY SOPHISTICATED TO BE CONCERNED WITH ADVERSE PRECEDENTS IN MULTILATERAL RELATIONS, DECISIONS ARE TAKEN FOR PURELY ICELANDIC REASONS. AS IS TRUE IN MUCH ELSE IN OUR RELATIONS, CONCEPT THAT USG/GOI ACTIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORA WILL AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS IS NOT GENERALLY ACCEPTED BECAUSE ICELANDERS BELIEVE THAT IN MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND IN BILATERAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT WITH USG, THEY HOLD TWO HOSTAGES OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO US. BECAUSE OF THIS SITUATION, THEY SOMETIMES FEEL FREE TO TAKE WHAT WE REGARD AS OPPORTUNISTIC POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORA BUT ARE SURPRISED AND PAINED WHEN WE FEEL UNABLE TO GIVE THEM FULL SUPPORT ON THEIR ALL-IMPORTANT FISHERIES

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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00258 241145Z

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 FEB 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOI APPROACH  
**TAGS:** PORG, PFOR, US, IC, XX, (MARTIN, DOYLE V)  
**To:** STATE  
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